

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings†

California Medical Association. Session will convene in Los Angeles. Dates of the seventy-fourth annual session, to be held in 1945, Sunday, Monday, May 6-7.

American Medical Association. Sessions will be held in Chicago (not St. Louis) on June 12-16, 1944. (See *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, November 6, 1943, page 644.)

The Platform of the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association advocates:

1. *The establishment of an agency of Federal Government under which shall be coordinated and administered all medical and health functions of the Federal Government, exclusive of those of the Army and Navy.*

2. *The allotment of such funds as the Congress may make available to any state in actual need for the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the care of the sick on proof of such need.*

3. *The principle that the care of the public health and the provision of medical service to the sick is primarily a local responsibility.*

4. *The development of a mechanism for meeting the needs of expansion of preventive medical services with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

5. *The extension of medical care for the indigent and the medically indigent with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

6. *In the extension of medical services to all the people, the utmost utilization of qualified medical and hospital facilities already established.*

7. *The continued development of the private practice of medicine, subject to such changes as may be necessary to maintain the quality of medical services and to increase their availability.*

8. *Expansion of public health and medical services consistent with the American system of democracy.*

Medical Broadcasts*

The Los Angeles County Medical Association:

The following is the Los Angeles County Medical Association's radio broadcast schedule for the current month, all broadcasts being given on Saturdays:

KFAC presents the Saturday program at 10:15 a. m., under the title, "Your Doctor and You."

In May, KFAC will present these broadcasts on the dates of May 6, 13, 20, and 27.

The Saturday broadcasts of KFI are given at 9:45 a. m., under the title, "The Road of Health."
"Doctors at War":

Radio broadcasts of "Doctors at War" by the American Medical Association, in cooperation with the National Broadcasting Company and the Medical Department of the United States Army and the United States

Navy, are on the air each Saturday at 2 p. m., Pacific War Time. Series commenced on January 8, 1944, will run for twenty-six weeks.

Pharmacological Items of Potential Interest to Clinicians*

1. *Presses Still Roll:* K. Stern and R. Willheim's *Biochemistry of Malignant Tumors* (Reference Press, New York, 1943, \$12.00) is reviewed with rich wisdom by M. Shimkin (*Scien. Month.*, 58:243, 1944). Oxford Press offers L. T. More's *Life and Works of the Hon. Robert Boyle*, (New York, 1944, \$4.50—but why always the Hon.?) Oxford Press also sells M. G. Mulinos' *Pharmacology* in its outline series and it deserves expansion to a real text (New York, 1944, \$4.50). Univ. of California Press announces *Language and Thought in Schizophrenia*, edited by J. S. Kasanin (Berkeley, 1944, \$2.00). Lippincott offers A. L. Barach's *Principles and Practice of Inhalation Therapy*, with lots of war applications (Philadelphia, 1944, \$5.00). Amer. Asso. Adv. Sci. sells symposium on *Surface Chemistry* for \$3.25 (Washington, 1944). Saunders publish J. B. Erich and L. T. Austin's *Traumatic Injuries of Facial Bones* (Philadelphia, 1944, \$6.00).

2. *Delayed from Abroad:* S. R. Numans and E. Havinga find that local anesthetics quickly permeate epidural membranes (*Rec. Trav. chim.*, 62:497, 1943). F. Grosse-Brockhoff discusses effects of acute cooling, action of anaesthetics in, and recommends atropine and lactose in treatment of (*Arch. Exper. Path. Pharmacol.*, 201:417-467, 1943). R. Pulver and H. Martin discuss biochemistry of N₁ acyl sulfonamide derivatives (*Ibid.*, p. 491). A. Szent-Gyorgi discusses chemistry of muscle (*Bull. Soc. Chim. Biol.*, 25:242, 1943). F. K. Cramer and V. G. Foglia show experimental diabetic cataract develops proportionally to degree of hypoglycemia after pancreatectomy (*Rev. Soc. Argentina Biol.*, 19:483, 1943). L. E. Napier and P. C. S. Gupta reveal that massive non-physiological hemolysis occurs on giving hemolytic serum (*Ind. J. Med. Res.*, 31:75, 1943). A. C. Roy shows fragility of erythrocytes in hypotonic solution varies inversely with average diameter and that surface tension plays secondary role in hemolysis with hemolytic agents (*Ibid.*, pp. 103 and 109). Wm. Evans well reviews triple heart rhythm (*Brit. Heart J.*, 5:205, 1943).

3. *New Journals:* Plushily sleek, why restricted? *Air Surgeon's Bull.* appears with fancy drawings and layout: March issue containing C. E. Kossmann's article on responses of body to cold, and F. E. McDonough's management of air-sick aviator. C. C. Thomas hits *Time* with *Journal of Neurosurgery*, opening properly with G. Horrax's account of Harvey Cushing's contributions to neurosurgery, and F. D. Ingraham and O. T. Bailey's notes on finbrin foams as hemostatic agents and fibrin films in repair of dural defects without adhesions.

4. *Neurophysiology:* A. Shapiro & Co. find plasma clot tensile strength in nerve saturating proportional to cross section of tubes in which formed (*J. Lab. Clin. Med.*, 29:282, 1944). E. J. Carey continues remarkable

† In the front advertising section of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, various rosters of national officers and organizations appear each week, each list being printed about every fourth week.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged.

* These items submitted by Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, formerly director of the University of California Pharmacologic Laboratory, now dean of the University of Texas Medical School, Galveston, Texas.

studies on ameboid motion and secretory activity of motor end plates, now describing drug effects (*Amer. J. Path.*, 20:341, 1944). S. W. Kuffler shows that deficient calcium first increases sensitivity of motor end plates and then blocks, while excess depresses by lowering electrical excitability of muscle fibers near end plate (*J. Neurophysiol.*, 7:17, 1944). G. H. Bishop describes peripheral unit of pain (*Ibid.*, p. 17). F. N. Craig reports important study on effect of carbon dioxide tension on metabolism of brain and medulla (*J. Gen. Physiol.*, 27:325, 1944). W. Ashby correlates carbonic anhydrase with functional levels of central nervous system (*J. Biol. Chem.*, 152:235, 1944).

5. *Chemotherapy*: N. M. David, N. Phatak and F. B. Zener give much needed report on toxicity and absorption of di-iodo-hydroxyquinolin for amebiasis (*Amer. J. Trop. Med.*, 25:29, 1944). W. H. Feldman & Co. (*Am. J. Med. Sci.*, 207:290, 1944) confirm M. I. Smith et al (*J. Pharmacol. Exp. Therap.*, 74:163, 1943) that 4, 4' diamino-diphenylsulfone successfully combats expt. TB without undue toxicity. E. F. Geever warns that skin eruptions in sulfadiazine therapy are dangerous (*Ibid.*, p. 231). E. Bigg & Co. describe use of glycol vapors for bacterial control of large spaces (*Ibid.*, p. 361). E. C. Hoff and C. Yahn find dilantin may reduce decomposition convulsions (*Am. J. Physiol.*, 141:7, 1944). T. A. Loomis & Co. find sulfanilamide is excreted in humans by glomerular filtration plus tubular reabsorption (*Ibid.*, p. 158). Reviving ancient Egyptian use of garlic, leeks and onions for wounds as in Hearst Medical Papyrus prescriptions 23, 95, etc., B. Tokin, I. Toporov & Co. review plant bactericides (*Am. Rev. Soc. Med.*, 1:251, 1944). L. P. Garrod, A. Fleming, E. Chain, M. E. Florey give best review of penicillin (*Brit. Med. Bull.*, 2:1, 1944).

New Medical Appointments by Governor Earl Warren.—On April 28, 1944, Governor Earl Warren announced the following appointments:

California State Board of Medical Examiners:

Anthony B. Diepenbrock, M.D., San Francisco.

Joseph Zeiler, M.D., Los Angeles.

California State Board of Public Health:

Elmer Belt, M.D., Los Angeles.

Harry Henderson, M.D., Santa Barbara.

Mare Island Hospital Chief Is Given Award For Artificial Arm.—Captain H. H. Kessler, United States Naval Reserve, chief of the orthopedic department at the Mare Island Naval Hospital, will receive a \$1,000 American design award for his work in developing a naturally functioning artificial arm.

Captain Kessler, a native of New Jersey, was working in the field of rehabilitation before being called to active duty in December, 1941.

He went to New York City on April 20th to receive the award.

West's First Public Health School Opens at U. C.—The first school of Public Health west of the Mississippi has been established on the Berkeley campus of the University of California, it is announced by President Robert G. Sproul.

With Dr. Walter H. Brown, chairman of the department of hygiene as acting dean, the school was set up by the Board of Regents after the State Assembly passed a bill appropriating funds. It is an answer to the intensified wartime demand for well-trained personnel to fill the depleted staffs of county health offices in California and other western states, which fear a shortage of facilities for meeting serious public health dangers.

Planned as a University-wide undertaking using resources of all campuses, the school is being organized as a cooperative enterprise, involving the participation of several other schools and departments, including the fields of medicine, medical research, education, nursing, home economics, and sanitary engineering. The department of hygiene will be renamed the department of public health and function as part of the school.

Provision for courses and curricula on both undergraduate and graduate levels is contemplated, and plans will be developed regarding graduate training of health officers, epidemiologists, public health engineers, industrial hygienists, and other specialists.

The first official activity of the school will be a special training course for sanitarians to meet the needs of the State Department of Health in the war emergency.

National Health Honor Roll: California Awards.

Award of the 1943 National Health Honor Roll to 53 city and county units has been announced recently by Eric A. Johnston, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, which with the American Public Health Association, sponsors this nation-wide merit award program for community health advancement.

Awards were made by a committee of leading national authorities who had spent weeks grading the reports of the participating communities throughout the United States. The committee's decisions were based on attainments of high standards of excellence in protecting public health in war-time. Emphasis was placed on specific measures to control communicable diseases such as venereal diseases, tuberculosis and children's diseases. Sanitation, including protection of milk and food supplies; proper safeguards in maternity care, child health and welfare; effective health education; adequate industrial health programs and other health services were also given primary consideration in making the awards. . . .

Mr. Johnston, in commending the winning communities, as well as all those which participated in the program, said:

"This achievement deserves the highest praise and support and reflects great credit on the health officers, officials, voluntary health organizations, chambers of commerce and other business and civic groups in these localities for giving adequate attention to the war-time health of war workers and citizens. The stresses of this war, the shortage of manpower and the large percentage of those rejected by Selective Service have made us realize as never before that illness and disability are a serious drain on America's productive capacity. We now know that our annual loss on account of illness and disability is at least a billion man-days and a staggering financial burden of at least ten billion dollars—a tax which everybody pays and nobody gets."

California was listed with the 53 winning cities and counties which will be awarded engraved plaques as follows:

California: Los Angeles County, Pasadena, San Jose, Santa Barbara County.

Diphtheria in California.—The Bureau of Epidemiology of the California State Department of Public Health on April 21, 1944, issued the following bulletin:

"In California during the month of February, 1944, 15 individuals died of diphtheria. Eleven of the 15 had not reached their sixth birthday! This is an excellent illustration of the need of urging parents to have their children immunized against diphtheria. During the same month 118 cases of diphtheria were reported—a fatality rate of 12.7 per cent."

American Urological Association.—The Western Section of the American Urological Association will hold its annual meeting in San Francisco on Friday-Saturday, June 2-3, 1944. Headquarters will be at the Sir Francis Drake. Information concerning the meeting may be secured from the secretary, Dudley P. Fagerstrom, M. D., 710 Medico-Dental Building, San Jose.

Municipal Health Service System of San Francisco.—The Municipal Health Service System of San Francisco completed its fifth year of operation under Plan I on September 30, 1943. For five years the city and school employees had provided themselves with medical protection through an organization established under the city and county charter as a department of the municipal government.

About 10,000 employees of the city and school departments have participated in the System each year since the medical benefits became available. In addition, about one-third of them have maintained membership for their dependents. Membership of dependents and other voluntary members has averaged about 5,000 subscribers each year. The 15,000 persons so protected have had access to the best medical services and facilities in San Francisco.

A total of \$477,000.55 was contributed to the funds of the System by the city and school employees for doctor, hospital and auxiliary medical care for themselves and their dependents during the 12-month period ending September 30, 1943. The average employee membership was 9,918 per month. Membership receipts for this group were \$327,119.40. The membership rate for employees was \$2.50 per month for the first two months of this period and \$2.80 per month for the last ten months of the year.

Kenny Treatment in Poliomyelitis.—"The Kenny concepts of poliomyelitis have not been substantiated by recent observation and study, and Kenny's ideas have added nothing that was not already known about the disease," Dr. William H. Northway, assistant professor of medicine (physiotherapy) in the Stanford University School of Medicine, recently declared in a lecture at Lane Hall in San Francisco.

His talk on "The Treatment of Poliomyelitis" was the first of the annual series of popular medical lectures given by Stanford.

"The Kenny treatment of the symptoms has certain advantages over some procedures used in the past," Dr. Northway conceded, "and her routine of muscle training is very useful."

Dr. Northway declared that "there is no known specific treatment for poliomyelitis. Treatment is therefore directed toward relief of the acute symptoms of pain and muscle spasm, and the rebuilding of muscle power after the disease has run its course."

"Medical practice has much to offer the victim of poliomyelitis through the coöperative effort of the neurologist, orthopedist and physical therapist. No cult, schism or fanaticism has a place in the treatment of this disease."

Civilian Hospitals to Get Penicillin Quota.—A nation-wide system for limited distribution of penicillin to civilians has been announced by the War Production Board.

Under the system, supplies will be channeled to more than 1,000 depot hospitals.

An "Office of Civilian Penicillin Distribution" has been established in Chicago at the W.P.B. regional office to carry out the distribution.

Depot hospitals will be expected to recognize the requests of other hospitals in their areas and to furnish penicillin to the best of their ability when a need has been established.

Blue Cross Hospitalization Service.—More than 2,000 employed subscribers and dependents have been added to the membership of Sacramento's Blue Cross Plan, Intercoast Hospitalization Insurance Association, during the first quarter of 1944, according to P. A. Stitt, local executive director in Sacramento.

Blue Cross Plans are non-profit organizations and hospital service to subscribers is guaranteed by the participating hospitals. They operate under the public welfare and insurance departments of the various states and provinces and according to an approved program of the American Hospital Association based upon 14 community service and public welfare principles.

Voluntary membership in these community and state-sponsored plans is now available to 90 per cent of the American population.

Wartime Population Accessions in California.—Largest war-stimulated population increase in any metropolitan area between April 1, 1940, and November 1, 1943, occurred in Los Angeles, the Office of War Information recently announced in summarizing reports and estimates on population changes from several Federal agencies.

The statement, which is more up-to-date than recent figures from the Census Bureau, said the influx into Los Angeles totaled 378,292 persons during the three-and-one-half-year period.

Movement of war workers brought "a marked redistribution of population," the O.W.I. said in analyzing information collected by the Census Bureau, War Manpower Commission, Selective Service System and War Production Board.

The most significant shift was away from the Northeast Atlantic area and into the West Coast States. California gained a total of 1,013,629 persons.

Close relation between war production and population increases was emphasized by the study.

Los Angeles ranged sixth in the list of areas with most government-financed production facilities, and third on the combined basis of contracts and facilities.

The table showed various government agencies have put \$413,881,000 into Los Angeles for factories and other production facilities. Commitments for San Francisco-Oakland amounted to \$477,990,000 and for San Diego to \$191,239,000. Chicago headed this list with Detroit second.

While Los Angeles had the largest numerical increase, several other California areas showed larger percentage gains. Inyo County population rose 122.7 per cent; Modoc County, 63.7 per cent; San Diego County, 42.9 per cent; the San Francisco area (Contra Costa, Solano, Marin, San Mateo and Alameda counties), 26 per cent, and San Joaquin County, 13.1 per cent. The gain in the Los Angeles city area was 13 per cent, with Orange County increasing 17.2 per cent and Los Angeles County 12.8 per cent.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

Dr. Ray L. Wilbur Heads Baruch Medical Endowment

New York, April 27.—The sum of \$1,100,000 was given today by Bernard M. Baruch, financier and philanthropist, for teaching of and research in physical medicine.

The gift is intended as a tribute to the memory of Mr.